

Docket No.: HEI-015

Application No. 10/577,371

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A polyester container comprising:
a heat sealing structure disposed on an opening rim part of the container and adapted to form a hermetic heat seal between the container and a cover member, the heat sealing structure comprising;
a projecting portion disposed on an upper surface of a crystallized portion of the opening rim part, and wherein at least a portion of the projecting portion which becomes a heat-sealing-face of the heat seal, comprises an amorphous portion or a lowly crystallized portion.
2. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1, wherein a crystallinity of a crystallized opening rim part is 20% or more, and the crystallinity of the amorphous portion or the lowly crystallized portion of the projecting portion is in a range of 0 to less than 20%.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the projecting portion is in a range of 0.1 to 2.0 mm.
5. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is disposed in the center and/or an outer peripheral side of the upper surface of the

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opening rim part, or disposed extending from the center to the outer peripheral side.

6. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1, wherein the container is a cup-like container, and at least a trunk portion of the container is orientationally or thermally crystallized.

7. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1, wherein the opening rim part has a flange part, and the projecting portion is disposed on an upper surface of the flange part.

8. (Previously presented) A polyester container in which a projecting portion is formed on an upper surface of an opening rim part, the projection portion comprising:

a heat sealing resin piece protruding toward an interior of the container, the heat sealing resin piece being positioned to be substantially appressed against the upper surface of the opening rim part by a cover member having a sealant layer on an inner face thereof, the heat sealing resin piece being adapted to melt and deform during heat sealing and bonding of the resin piece to the sealant layer of the cover member.

9. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1 wherein:

the projection portion comprises a heat sealing resin piece protruding toward the interior of the container in a state where the resin piece is positioned to be substantially appressed against the upper surface of the opening rim part by a cover member having a sealant layer on an inner surface thereof, the

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heat sealing resin piece being adapted to melt and deform during heat sealing and bonding of the resin piece to the sealant layer of the cover member.

10. (Currently amended) The polyester container according to claim 8, wherein the upper surface of the opening rim part on an external side of the container from the projecting portion is formed below the upper surface of the opening rim part on an internal side of the container from the projecting portion, and

a resin lump is disposed on a container external side of the projecting portion which is melted, pressed and thus deformed during the heat sealing of the cover member to the container.

11. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 8, wherein the opening rim part is bonded to the sealant layer of the cover member with a heat sealing strength of 5 - 20 N/15mm width, which enables easy opening.

12. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 8, wherein the resin piece has a tapered shape.

13. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the opening rim part has a tapered face inclined obliquely upwards from a base portion of the projecting portion to the interior of the container.

14. (Previously presented) The polyester container according to claim 13, wherein the upper surface of the opening rim part on the external side of the container from the projecting portion is formed below the upper surface of the opening rim part on the internal side of the container from the projecting portion.

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15. (Currently amended) The polyester container according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the cover member ~~has~~ having a sealant layer made of a polyester resin with a melting point of 110°C to 225°C.

16. (Original) The polyester container according to claim 15, wherein the sealant layer is made of a polybutylene-terephthalate-based resin.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of sealing the polyester container according to claim 1 in which the projecting portion is disposed to face a sealant layer, and wherein a seal portion is heated and pressurized with a sealing head to heat-seal the container with a cover member having the sealant layer on an inner face thereof on an upper surface of an opening rim part, the method comprising the steps of:

melting and pressing the projecting portion using the sealing head to deform the projecting portion along the upper surface of the opening rim part in a state where the projecting portion is substantially appressed against the upper surface of the opening rim part, thereby forming a resin piece protruding toward the interior of the container, and

bonding the resin piece to the sealant layer of the cover member.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of sealing the polyester container according to claim 17, comprising the steps of:

forming the upper surface of the opening rim part on an external side of the container from the projecting portion below

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the upper surface of the opening rim part on an internal side of the container from the projecting portion; and

forming a resin lump on a container external side of the projecting portion which is melted, pressed and thus deformed in a case where the container main body is heat-sealed with the cover member.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of sealing the polyester container according to claim 18, comprising the step of:

bonding the opening rim part to the sealant layer of the cover member with a heat sealing strength of 5 - 20 N/15mm width, which enables easy opening.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of sealing the polyester container according to claim 18, comprising the step of:

cutting the container external side of the projecting portion to modify a shape or a size of the resin lump.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of sealing the polyester container according claim 17, comprising the steps of:

disposing, on the upper surface of the opening rim part, a tapered face inclined obliquely upwards from a base portion of the projecting portion to the interior of the container; and

deforming, by melting and pressing the projecting portion using the sealing head, along the tapered face to form the resin piece into a tapered shape.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of sealing the polyester container according to claim 17, comprising the step of:

forming a stepped portion in the sealing head to control the shape or the size of the resin piece by the stepped portion.

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23. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a polyester container comprising the steps of:

supporting an undersurface of a flange part disposed in an opening rim part by a female mold;

forming a projecting portion on an upper surface of the flange part by use of a clamp mold having a groove portion in a molding face;

crystallizing the flange part by orientational crystallization and thermal crystallization using the clamp mold and the female mold; and

subjecting the projecting portion to an amorphous treatment or a low crystallization treatment in the groove portion of the clamp mold.

24. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according to claim 23, comprising the step of:

molding the polyester container from an amorphous sheet or a lowly crystallized resin sheet.

25. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according to claim 23, comprising the step of:

molding the polyester container from an amorphous or a lowly crystallized molded article for container intermediate formed by injection molding or compression molding.

26. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according claim 23, wherein a depth H of the groove portion of the clamp mold is in a range of 0.1 to 0.35 mm.

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27. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according to claim 23, wherein a temperature of the clamp mold is set to 70 to 130°C, and a temperature of the female mold is set to 130 to 200°C.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a polyester container, comprising the steps of:

molding an article for container intermediate or a container article having a projecting portion on an upper surface of an opening rim part by injection molding or compression molding;

thermally crystallizing the opening rim part; and

subjecting the projecting portion disposed on the upper surface of the opening rim part to an amorphous treatment or a low crystallization treatment.

29. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according to claim 28, comprising the step of:

performing the amorphous treatment or the low crystallization treatment of the projecting portion by cooling the projecting portion and/or the vicinity of the projecting portion.

30. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing the polyester container according to claim 29, comprising the step of:

performing the amorphous treatment or the low crystallization treatment of the projecting portion by heating, melting, and then quenching the projecting portion.